Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1551 - May 4, 2007

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1551 with a release date of Friday, May 4th, 2007 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. The ARRL backs away from Regulation by Bandwidth but says that it will be back. Also, researchers say that the next solar cycle is late and so will be the High Frequency D-X. Find out the details on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1551 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESTRUCTURING: ARRL RECALLS REGULATION BY BANDWIDTH PETITION

The ARRL has requested that the FCC permit it to withdraw its "Regulation by Bandwidth" petition known at the Commission as RM-11306. The ARRL says it wants time to reassess and re-file but those who oppose the concept are calling it a victory over what they see as a misguided attempt to change the service. Amateur Radio Newsline's Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, is here with the rest of the story:

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The bloggers are having a field day. They claim that they are the ones who forced the ARRL to withdraw its November 2005 Petition for Rule Making. One calling on the FCC to establish a regulatory system that would have done away with traditional by-mode subbands and brought about a new regulatory scheme based on the bandwidth of a given signal.

Whether or not it was the web log writers had anything at all to do with the ARRL decision to abandon the measure the FCC dubbed as RM-11306 will be forever open to debate. The real deciding factor was likely the 1000+ comments filed with the FCC, the majority of which opposed the idea. And rather than face the possibility of a wrenching political defeat, the League wisely chose to walk away from this initial attempt but has left the door open to try again at some later date.

So what was so wrong with RM-11306? That really depends on where your interest in Amateur Radio lies? For the average ham in the street it really meant nothing more than doing away with the concept of subbands and instituting handshake agreements as to whom would operate where. No longer would there be the traditional band segments dedicated to a given mode or modes like

CW and SSB. Instead, anyone could operate anywhere as long as his or her signal did not exceed a specific bandwidth for a particular spectral parcel. This meant that in a given band one might see a legacy mode such as SSB mixed with all sorts of emerging digital modes that have yet to be devised. This change in itself was one that a lot of folks seemed to have a problem understanding or simply opposed because they oppose any sort of change.

Another point of contention was automated digital messaging. Amateurs involved in emergency communications say that this is a must if the hobby is to maintain its status as a support organization to first responders. But opponents fear that permitting unattended operation by more and more automated stations would lead to a massive interference problem all across the High Frequency bands. Whether or not this would have happened can only be theorized on because the ARRL has asked that RM-11306 be withdrawn from consideration from the FCC's agenda and it likely will be if the regulatory agency has not done so already.

In the end, if one looks as the comments filed on this matter with the FCC, one realizes that there are really two schools of thought expressed. A small contingent says that ham radio must march forward into the age of digital communications at all costs. A much larger group appears to wants to maintain the status quo or initiate any change at what can best be described as a snails pace. In the end it looks as if the ARRL leadership after reading the comments from the ham community concluded that RM-11306 simply did not have the support from the ham radio community to make it a viable plan even if the FCC issued a Report and Order agreeing worth it. So it decided to take a step back, reassess what is needed and to try again at some later date. And in its statement withdrawing RM-11306, that's exactly what it has done.

How soon will the ARRL re-file? Only the League knows the answer to that one. But one thing is certain. Whether it's the ARRL some other group or the FCC itself leads the way, the road to regulation by bandwidth is one that the ham radio community is going to have to travel one of these days. The only real question is how soon.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, in Los Angeles.

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By the way, now that the ARRL has decided to withdraw RM-11306, we have decided to close down our web based straw poll as to how many folks are for or against the concept of Regulation by Bandwidth. When we took the poll off line on April 30th, 1138 of you had taken the time to cast your vote. Of these, 694 or 61% favor a shift to Regulation by Bandwidth while 395 or 34.7% oppose the idea. Another 49 or 4.3% responded by noting that you had no idea as to what Regulation by Bandwidth is really all about. (ARNewsline(tm), others)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: KD5PLB TALKS TO SCHOOL KIDS IN GERMANY

Saturday, April 28th is a day that students at the Samuel von Pufendorf School in Floeha, Germany, will long remember. Gathered in the gymnasium, they were there to hear a voice from space. And they would not be disappointed as the voice of astronaut Suni Williams, KD5PLB, operating as NA1SS from the International Space Station rang forth from the speakers:

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Williams audio - hear it in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

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As soon as two way contact was established, Williams went to work answering questions posed by students at the school. Here is an edited sample of her responses as supplied by PA2RPJ and PD0RKC with the first questioner interested in knowing whether she watches satellite T-V:

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Williams audio - hear it in the MP3 version of this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

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Soon the questions became a lot more technical and so did the answers. Here KD5PLB describes what its like to watch lightning storms on Earth from her vantage point in space:

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Williams audio - hear it in the MP3 version of

this weeks newscast downloadable at www.arnewsline.org

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And it was also a pretty dynamic event for the students at the Samuel von Pufendorf School to get to talk to Suni Williams flying overhead on the I-S-S. One that they are not likely to forget. (ARNewsline(tm), ARISS with audio by PA2RPJ and PD0RKC)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SATGATE CLOSES DO TO LACK OF USE

AMSAT's Satgate is going away. After many years of packet message forwarding via UO-22, GO-32 and AO-51 the Satgate System will close due to a lack of traffic being handled.

Using Satgate, traffic was automatically accepted from the terrestrial packet networks and routed to the satellites. It was then downloaded from the satellite and routed into another packet network untouched by human hands.

A total of thirty five worldwide stations were in the system a few years ago. This has dwindled due to this lack of traffic, maintenance problems, change of location of command stations and users who have become Silent Keys.

Another reason for its going away was not stated. That being packet messaging being replaced by electronic mail over the Internet. That lead to a major loss of interest in traditional packet by the worlds ham community with the lone exception of A-P-R-S. More ham radio space related items later on in this weeks Amateur Radio Newsline report. (ARNewsline(tm), ANS ,W0SL)

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Break 1

Celebrating 30 years of service to the world-wide ham radio community. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the N7CCD repeater serving Seattle, Washington.

(5 sec pause here)

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RADIO SCIENCE: RESEARCHERS SAY SOLAR MAX DELAYED A YEAR

Good D-X may have to wait a little while longer. This is because the next 11-year cycle will most likely not start next March and peak in late 2011 or mid-2012. This according to a forecast issued by the NOAA Space Environment Center in coordination with an international panel of solar experts all of whom agree that the cycle will begin up to a year later than expected. Amateur Radio Newsline's Evi Simons reports:

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If you have been waiting for improved D X conditions on the High Frequency bands, you are going to have to be patient a bit longer. So says the NOAA Space Environment Center which led a prediction panel that issued the forecast at its annual Space Weather Workshop in Boulder, Colorado.

Expected to start last fall, the delayed onset of Solar Cycle 24 has stymied the panel. It also left them evenly split on whether a weak or strong period of solar storms lies ahead, but neither group predicts a record-breaker.

One disagreement among the current panel members centers on the importance of magnetic fields around the sun's poles as the previous cycle decays. End-cycle polar fields are the bedrock of the approach predicting a weak Cycle 24. The strong-cycle forecasters place more importance on other precursors extending over a several-cycle history. Another clue will be whether Cycle 24 sunspots appear by mid 2008. If not, the strong-cycle group might change its forecast.

In the cycle forecast issued Wednesday, April 25th, half of the panel predicts a moderately strong cycle of 140 sunspots, plus or minus 20, expected to peak in October 2011. The other half predicts a moderately weak cycle of 90 sunspots, plus or minus 10, peaking in August 2012. An average solar cycle ranges from 75 to 155 sunspots. The late decline of Cycle 23 has helped shift the panel away from its earlier leaning toward a strong Cycle 24. Now the group is evenly split between strong and weak.

The first year after solar minimum, marking the end of Cycle 23, will provide the information scientists need to arrive at a consensus. NOAA and the panel decided to issue their best estimate now and update the forecast as the cycle progresses, since NOAA Space Environment Center customers have been requesting this forecast for more than a year.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Evi Simons, in New York.

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Scientists have issued solar cycle predictions only twice before. In 1989, a panel met to predict Cycle 22, which peaked that same year. Scientists met again in September of 1996 to predict Cycle 23 -- six months after the cycle had begun. Both groups did better at predicting timing than intensity. (NOAA)

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RESCUE RADIO: CONGRESS COULD DESIGNATE BROADCASTERS AS FIRST RESPONDERS

U-S Senator Mary Landrieu, of Louisiana says that she and a colleague plan to introduce congressional legislation that would recognize the role of local broadcasters in responding to disasters on a federal level. Co-sponsored by Senator Ted Stevens of Alaska, the First Response Broadcasters Act of 2007 would designate broadcasters as first responders, and as such, entitled to federal supplies of "fuel, water and emergency supplies so that they can remain in operation in or near a disaster zone. The Landrieu-Stevens legislation would also direct FEMA to expedite access to the disaster area by broadcast engineers to restore transmitters and other key facilities of a broadcasters infrastructure. The bill establishes a $10 million Broadcast Disaster Preparedness Matching Grant Program that could be used to protect, upgrade or enhance facilities. (RW)

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RESCUE RADIO: NEW EMCOMMS DATABASE BEING DEVELOPED IN LOS ANGELES

A University of California at Los Angeles center is developing an online database and mapping system for first responders. This, to better address the needs of Los Angeles County's vulnerable populations in the event of a disaster.

The Center for Neighborhood Knowledge at the UCLA School of Public Affairs is using a 500,000 dollar endowment from the state Homeland Security Grants Program to develop the database. It along with maps are being designed for use by the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management.

The information will also be used the Los Angeles Mayor's Office, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Los Angeles Police Department, and

city and county fire departments. No word if the database will be available to volunteer agencies that utilize radio amateurs as primary communications. (CGC, others)

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ENFORCEMENT: FCC SAYS THAT'S NO WAY TO RUN A REPEATER

Turning to enforcement news, the FCC has written to John C. Kimbrough, WR3S, of Murfeesborough, Tennessee, asking why has repeaters operated without apparent control and rebroadcast portions of commercial television programming and music on several dates in March of this year. The FCC told WR3S that this contrary to the FCC Part 97 rules. It also noted that its monitoring found that repeater control operators were failing to properly identify themselves.

The letter to Kimbrough goes on to note that the Commission requires that repeater be under the supervision of a control operator. Also, that it both requires and expects control operators to take whatever steps are necessary to insure that the repeater is in fill compliance with all FCC rules.

WR3S was given 30 days from the date of the FCC's April 12th letter to provide detailed answers to a list of questions asked by the FCC. He was also told that the information he submits will determine what additional action, if any will be taken in this matter by the FCC. (FCC)

**

ENFORCEMENT: FCC CANCELS HARTMANN JR ALJ HEARING AND DENIES APPLICATION

The FCC has told a hard to locate ham radio applicant that he will not get a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge and that his license application is denied. This, after Joseph W. Hartmann Jr of Lansing, Michigan, wrote to the judge assigned to the case telling him that he did not have the money to fight the agency's claims of alleged wrong doing.

For a long time the FCC could not communicate with Hartmann, Jr. Correspondence to him was returned unopened and unclaimed. Then Hartmann decided to contact the agency on his own initiative. In several electronic communications to Administrative Law Judge Arthur I. Steinberg, Hartmann Jr. stated that he did not have the resources to obtain legal counsel for a hearing nor have the resources for driving to hearing in Washington.D.C..

By way of background, the FCC had earlier

designated Hartmann's license application for a hearing after noting that it had evidence suggesting that he had intentionally submitted fraudulent administrative updates to obtain the privileges associated with the General class license of another radio amateur with a similar name. That ham is Joseph V. Hartman Sr, K3GUX, of Oceanview, Delaware.

The Commission had earlier placed put Hartmann's January 2006 application for an Amateur Radio license on hold. This, while it was looking into why he'd filed numerous requests back in 2005 in attempts to change the name and address of the Delaware Hartman to that of his own.

Other than one being Hartmann Jr. and the other being Hartman Senior, there is also a difference in the spelling of the name. Joseph V. Hartman Sr, K3GUX, is spelled with only one letter "n" while Joseph W. Hartmann Jr. uses two. Its unknown if that's what caught the FCC's eye in this matter, but its likely a good guess. (FCC)

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ENFORCEMENT: ONLY EXTRA CLASS CAN OPERATE THERE

Edib Zildzo, K2AAW, of Roselle, Illinois, has been sent a letter by the FCC. One that asks him to explain why he has been heard operating on frequencies reserved for Extra class license holders when he only holds a General class license.

In its note to Zildzo, the FCC says that it has a copy of documents submitted by him to unnamed radio organization s where-in K2AAW claims that between February and July of 2006 that he operated at least 200 times on frequencies reserved for Extra class licensees. As such, it says that this raises questions whether or not Zildzo holds the qualifications to continue to hold an Amateur Service license.

Zildzo was asked to respond within 30 days to a series of questions regarding the operation of his station. He too was warned that future punitive action, if any, will depend on the information that he provides. (FCC)

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ELECTRICAL SAFETY: SIGNS MIGHT HAVE SAVED STUDENTS LIFE

Purdue University says that it will update warning signs at all high-voltage areas, including the one where the body of an

electrocuted freshman was found on March 23rd. The school said it will hold an independent review into the circumstances surrounding the death of 19-year-old aviation technology student Wade Steffey who had been missing since January 13th.

Under federal safety law, buildings constructed or renovated after 1981 are required to post signs on doors of rooms containing more than 600 volt circuits. Owen Hall, the dormitory where the Steffey was found was built in 1957.

According to published news reports investigators believe that Steffey probably walked into the room containing the high voltage circuitry. This, after trying several doors to enter the dormitory to retrieve a coat from a friend's room. An autopsy suggested that he died instantly when he made contact with the wiring. (Published reports)

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INDUSTRY NEWS: ICOM IC-R3 MINI-TV RECEIVER IS AN ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Icom IC-R3, a small handheld receiver with a 2" T-F-T color display has been popular with ATV'ers involved in Emergency Communications for mobile reception of TV pictures may soon go extinct. Icom announced on April 26th that the IC-R3-26, blocked version for the United States market is currently on backorder with the delay is due to the FCC's Part 15.112 rules change. This ruling states that all TV receivers imported into the United States, after March 1, 2007, must be DTV compatible. As the IC-R3 is analog only, so it will no longer be imported for domestic sales. When existing stocks are gone, that's all there will ever be. (CGC)

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HAM RADIO ON THE WEB: THE DAYTON AMATEUR RADIO FORUM

Turning to ham radio on the World-Wide-Web, word of a new on-line discussion board for hams in the Dayton Ohio area. Its called the Dayton Amateur Radio Forum and is in cyberspace and is billed as a place to discus anything from vintage gear to the latest operating modes and much more. Its on-line at www.hamradioboard.proboards56.com/index.cgi (W8JWA)

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THE SOCIAL SCENE: HAMVENTION 2007 - THE ANNUAL VHF DINNER

This years Dayton VHF Dinner is slated for Thursday evening, May 17th at 6pm. The

venue is the Shuckin Shack, at 5512 North Main
in Dayton; This is a very casual. Affair where
such things as VHF contesting, gear and antennas will be discussed.

Seating is limited to about 60 and reservations
are required. If you plan to attend please
e-mail Dick Hanson, K5AND, at dick@dkhanson.com to reserve your spot.

Hamvention 2007 takes place May 18th to the 20th
at the Hara Arena in Dayton Ohio. Newsline's Ham
Radio Town Meeting is Saturday, May 19th from
12:45 to 2:45 PM. We hope to see you there. (VHF Reflector)

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BREAK 2

Thirty years and still here to serve you. From
the United States of America, we are the Amateur
Radio Newsline with links to the world from our
only official website at www.arnewsline.org and
being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD: HOWARD LESTER, W2ODC - SK

One of the grates of the Amateur Radio service
has passed from the scene. This with word that
Howard Lester, W2ODC, passed away on April 16th.

Lester was best known for his work in forming the
Upper New York Repeater Coordination Committee
after the sudden collapse of the NorthEast
Repeater Association in the early 1970's. He was
also a member of the Schenectady Amateur Radio
Association and heavily involved in the regions
emergency communications planning.

In addition to his devotion to Amateur Radio,
W2ODC was also an engineer and was credited as
one of the inventors of color television during
his tenure at RCA. He also devoted many hours
helping local, State, and Federal officials solve
radio communication problems. This included the
Schenectady Police Department and the Schenectady
County Emergency Operations Center.

Services for Howard Lester were held at Calvary
Episcopal Church in Burnt Hills, New York on
Sunday, April 22nd. He is survived by his wife
Ruth; sons, Carl, David, Donald and Eric plus
eight grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. (E-mail)

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EMERGING TECHNOLOGY: THE TINY FRACTAL 2.4 GHZ ANTENNA

A new and very tiny Fractal antenna has come to light . In press release dated March 6th, the Spanish wireless antenna company Fractus released a 2.4GHz fractal antenna that is the size of a grain rice.

Fractus, the pioneer developer of fractal antenna technology says that it has set a new standard for antenna miniaturization with the launch of its smallest antenna for the I-S-M 2.4GHz band. The 3.7mm by 2mm Micro Reach Xtend provides device designers with significantly more available space to enable new multimedia applications or reducing the antenna space needed within devices.

The miniature antenna was developed especially for Bluetooth headsets and mobile handsets. It supports all standards working at the 2.4GHz ISM band, including Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth. Now the only problem is to convince Fractus that there's a restricted antenna ham radio market for a full kilowatt 20 meter version that would be about the size of a dime. More information s on line at http://www.fractus.com/main/fractus/news_english/ (New Technology)

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RADIO IN SPACE: NASA MISSION TO STUDY THE AURORA BOREALIS

NASA has launched five satellites into orbit on a mission to study aurora like the famous Northern Lights. During the mission, the five satellites will observe an estimated 30 substorms in process and radio their findings back to Earth. At the same time, 20 observatories in Alaska and Canada will study the aurora from the ground.

The overall mission of these satellites is to solve the mystery of what causes geomagnetic substorms. Substorms are atmospheric events visible in the Northern Hemisphere as a sudden brightening of the Aurora Borealis that can have an impact on radio propagation. Researchers say that the findings may help protect commercial satellites and humans in space from the impact of particle radiation. Discovering why aurora fluctuate and fade will also provide scientists with important information on how the planet's protective magnetosphere works. (Space OnLine)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: FO-29 GOES QRT

The Fuji-Oscar 29 satellite may have gone silent. Reports received from JE9PEL say that the Japan Amateur Radio League is asking for any received telemetry to be forwarded to them. The e-mail address given is lab@jarl.or.jp. (VHF Reflector)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: INDIA PLANS HAMSAT-2

The secretary of AMSAT India says that organization that planning for a second Indian amateur radio satellite. It will be called Hamsat-2 and AMSAT India is asking for proposals from satellite operators, designers, and international AMSAT organizations. You can send your comments to info@amsat.in. (AMSAT India)

**

WORLDBEAT - UK: GB400AA CELEBRATES FOUNDING OF JAMESTOWN

Three clubs U-K radio clubs are banding together to celebrate the founding of Jamestown. The Clacton Radio Club, Felixstowe and District Amateur Radio Club and Harwich Amateur Radio Interest Group have joined forces to operate GB400AA as a special event station.

The station will commemorate the founding of Jamestown, Virginia 400 years ago. This, when the ships Susan Constant, Godspeed and Discovery arrived in that then U-S colony. They carried 102 passengers and founded the first English speaking settlement in North America.

GB400AA will be operated at the Mayflower Museum on the Halfpenny Pier at Harwich where the Harwich Society will have an exhibition showing the local area's connections with the inaugural voyages. The station is planned to operate from May 11th to the 13th and again on May 25th and 26th. (GB2RS)

**
WORLDBEAT- GREECE: NEW 4 METER BEACON ON 70.040 MHZ

A new 4 meter beacon is on the air from Greece on 70.040 MHz..

4 meters, which was once a United Kingdom only ham radio allocation is gaining favor across Europe. The latest offering is the new SV1FOUR beacon operation located in Athens that started operation on April 24th.

SV1DH is the beacon keeper. He reports over the

Four Meter website that the beacon is licensed for 5 watts output to 5-element yagi antenna beaming 315 degrees toward the UK.

At the moment SV1FOUR is only running at about 1 watt out and transmits its callsign followed by several dashes and locator KM27AW in Morse. More is on-line at www.70mhz.org (Southgate)

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WORLDBEAT - UK: INTERNATIONAL MUSEUMS WEEKEND

The seventh International Museums Weekend special event will take place on June 16th and 17th. M1BYT, who is organising the event, asks that all those intending to join in should please register their museum via the International Museums Weekend website at www.ukradioamateur.co.uk/imw. Hams world-wide are encouraged to participate in this event by setting up stations in their local museums and showing the public the magic and mystery of Amateur Radio. (GB2RS)

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WORLDBEAT - ITALY: THE PONETE LIGURE DX MEETING

And the 4th annual Ponente Ligure D X Meeting will take place in Imperia, Italy on May 19th. Topics covered include DXing, contests, the Summits On The Air and Islands on the Air award programs, and much more. Also, further discussions will be held regarding the proposal of an Italian team to build a permanent contest station in Morocco. Award hunters may bring their QSLs along to have them checked for the DXCC, WAS or IOTA. More information is on line at www.ariloano.it and http://www.arimperia.net (Southgate)

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DX

In DX, word that the long awaited Scarborough Reef BS7H DXpedition is on the air! At 03:00 UTC on Wednesday, May 2nd, it was reported that four operating positions had been built and that operations are ongoing. Two stations will stay on 20 meters while the other two will search 15, 17, 30 and 40 for openings.

In other DX news, DS4DRE is currently active stroke 4 from Hong Island. He will be there until the 30th of June. Activity is on 80 through 10 meters using CW and SSB. QSL to his callbook address.

And EA4ATI is returning to Dakar, Senegal and
will remain there until April of 2008. He
expects to be active as with his own call
portable 6W and also as 6W1EA. Listen for him on
10, 15 and 20 meters using a beam and on other
bands using dipoles. QSL direct to his EA4ATI home call.

Lastly, PA5CW, will be active portable YB9 from
Bali through the 10th of May. QSL this one as directed on the air.

(Above from various DX sources)

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THAT FINAL ITEM: THE DX ENTITY THAT NEVER WAS

And finally this week the story of the DX entity
that never was -- and likely never will be. Its
another tale from down-under described by Lim Linton, VK3PC:

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The Hutt River Province Principality announced
two years ago plans to begin short-wave
broadcasts and also seek amateur radio DXCC
entity status. Not heard of it? Well this
self-proclaimed independent territory on
Australia's mainland is located just north of
Geraldton, Western Australia and began in 1970.

The Royal Amateur Radio Society was formed as a
body to represent the interests of amateur radio
on the Hutt River Province. It was full steam
ahead seeking United Nations, IARU and ITU recognition.

Special Hotel Five prefix callsigns were being
made available to inaugural members of the Royal Amateur Radio Society.

ARRL DXCC rules were being quoted as enabling the
Principality to qualify for separate country
status. DXers and contesters were claimed to be
eager to operate from Hutt River.

However today it is all but a memory, no mention
is made on the Hutt River Province website of the former radio plans.

A source close to the ruler of the Hutt River
Province, Prince Leonard, reveals he's gone
totally cold on the radio ideas and is now very
busy engineering a pyramid in his Principality.

I'm Jim Linton VK3PC.

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Sounds as if Prince Leonard and ham radio have

gone their separate ways. (WIA News)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), P.O. Box 660937, Arcadia, California 91066.

Two reminders before we go. First we have a new poll for the month of May. This one asks the question now that the Morse exam is part of ham radio history, do you plan to upgrade or remain the license class you are right now. Of coarse this is unfair to Extra class licensees because they cannot go any higher so this poll kind of leaves them out in the cold, To compensate, we added a third possible answer, but you will have to go to our website at www.arnewsline.org to see what it is.

Also, the nominating season for this years Amateur Radio Newsline Young Ham of the Year Award is now open. Any radio amateur age 18 or younger residing in all 50 United States, plus Puerto Rico and all 13 Canadian Provinces can qualify. Full details and nominating forms are on our special website at www.yhoty.org. Also see the Vertex-Standard sponsored ad on page 8 of the March issue of QST Magazine.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Willbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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